

The **5 major risks for** young drivers:

1. not wearing a seat belt
2. distractions
3. drinking and driving
4. driving at night
5. speeding



Seat Belts

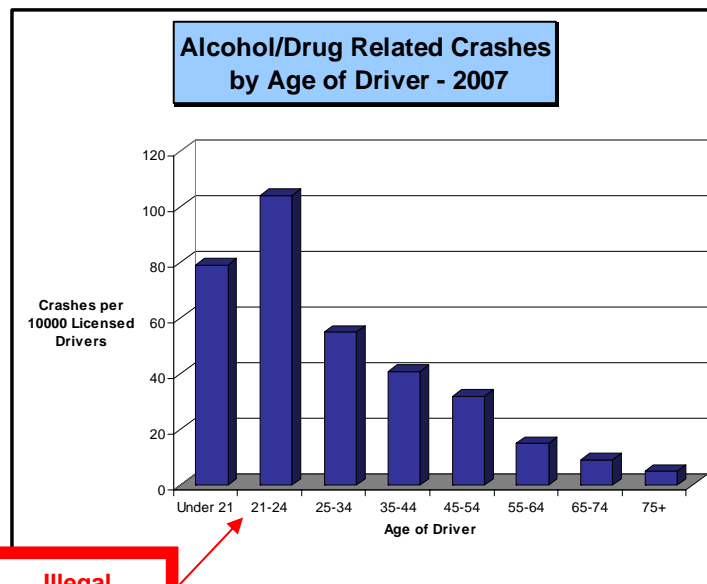
- Seat belts, in conjunction with air bags, can reduce the chance of a fatality by 45-55 %
- Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 killer of 16-20 year olds.
- Most Montana fatalities involve single vehicle rollovers and ejections.

Distractions

- Texting and talking on cell phones
The odds of getting into a crash are 4 to 5 times higher if the driver is talking on a phone. The odds increase to 8.3 times higher if the driver is texting.
- Eating and drinking on the run
- Changing radio station or CD
- Passengers

Drinking and Driving

- In 2006 and 2007, about **half** of the under-21 people in Montana who died in motor vehicle crashes had alcohol involved.



Illegal Drinking

Night Driving

Driving at night increases the likelihood and severity of crashes.

- The risk of being in a fatal crash is highest for teens between 9 pm and 6 am.
- 90% of a driver's reaction depends on vision, and vision is severely limited at night. Depth perception, color recognition, and peripheral vision are compromised after sundown.

The solutions:

1. **Buckle up**, every trip, **every time**
2. **Focus on driving** as the primary task
3. **Drive sober**
4. **Avoid night driving**
5. **Drive within** the speed limit *and* **your abilities**/experience